

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Palm Sunday

March 23, 202410:30 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

GATHERING

Processional Hymn #196“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Call to WorshipRobin Morris

There is a crowd gathering in the city.
They are following Jesus now, but they will abandon him before the week is done.
If we follow him, what does it mean?
That we turn our backs on people who are grasping for power and control.
That we accept a king who does not look very kingly.
That we will be surrounded by other people who follow Jesus.
Some of those people will be different from us.
But we all walk together behind Jesus. He is our unity.
We will touch and see as God draws near to us,
Riding in triumph toward the Cross.

*Hymn of Praise #197“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
~~Please bring your Lenten Prayer Slips forward during this hymn~~

*Call to ConfessionRobin Morris

*Prayer of Confession(Based on Psalm 51)

Eternal God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
By our thoughts and actions
and things we have done and not done.
Forgive us, we pray.
Forgive us for not turning to you first.
Forgive us for making you in our own image
and limiting your sovereignty.
You directed us to care for your creation
and not only do we fail,
we cause harm and damage.
Forgive us, we pray.
We know we are often not loving
or even kind to others,
and we consciously and unconsciously
exclude people who are different from us.
We do not pray enough for others.
Gracious and forgiving God,
may we love as you love
and accept others as you accept us.
May we live in a way that reflects Jesus.
And forgive, we pray, the sins we now confess silently...

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Assurance of Pardon Response #437

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon on the StepsCarrie Wyatt

Anthem“The Lord’s Prayer” (Mallotte)Chancel Choir

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

First ReadingPsalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Pew Bible OT p.565)

Second ReadingJohn 12:12-16 (Pew Bible NT p.106)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon from the Pulpit“They Remembered”Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith(A Declaration of Faith, 4.3)

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers
that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.
He healed those who were sick in body and mind,
yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.
He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him
above loyalty to family and country,
yet he lived among them as a servant
Jesus taught with authority,
challenging many time-honored customs and ideas,
yet he submitted to humiliation and death
without a word on his own behalf.
He forgave sinners,
yet he was counted among sinners.
We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.
He did what only God can do.
We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness.
When he lived as a servant
and went humbly to his death
the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest.
In both his majesty and lowliness
Jesus is the eternal Son of God,
God with us.

*Affirmation of Faith Response #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

Prayers of the Peopleconcluding with the Lord’s Prayer (page 35 in hymnal)

Service of Giving

Offertory“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” (Rozsa/Huisman)Jim Simmons

*Doxology #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #212“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude“Ride On, O King, Ride On” (Martin)Rita Harmon

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\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

The flowers in worship today are given for the glory of God.

Please remember in prayer:

Imogene Elliott; The Nice Stranger on I-85; Sara Setzer; Butch & Barbara Jarman; Lynda; Matt; Karen Lydon; Tracy; Barbara Grinter; Patsy Spires; Kathy Miller Evans; Trish Tong; Hugh Fincher; Fran Ross; Buck Jolley; Justina Eddy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next week’s lectionary readings are:

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18.

Monthly Giving Opportunity

The March giving opportunity is One Great Hour of Sharing. You may mark your check "OGHoS" or put it in the MGO box in the worship space.

About the Prayer of Confession

Today’s Prayer of Confession was created from the prayers written on Wednesday night, February 28, as we considered "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" as part of our study of the Lord's Prayer.

Wednesday Night Program

There will be no Wednesday night supper or program this week. Please join us for Holy Week services:  
Thursday, March 28. Maundy Thursday. 6:00 p.m. in the chapel  
Friday, March 29. Good Friday. 12 noon in the chapel  
Sunday, March 31. Easter. 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary

Flowers for the Cross

There will be buckets outside the breezeway and inside on Saturday to put flowers in for the cross. We welcome flowers from your yard or purchased flowers. The cross will be decorated early Sunday morning.

THIS WEEK IN CHURCH HISTORY

**March 25, 1:** Roman Church historian Dionysius Exiguus (ca.500-550), in calculating his history of the Christian Church, took this day as the supposed date of the Annunciation. March 25th afterward became the first day of the calendar year, until the Gregorian Calendar Reform of 1582 changed the day to January 1st.

**March 28, 519:** Under Emperor Justinian, the churches of the East and West reconcile. They had been separated for thirty-five years during the Acacian Schism, which revolved around whether or not Christ had two natures - the human and the divine. This had been the first significant break between the churches of East and West.

**March 31, 1492:** Ferdinand and Isabella, King and Queen of Spain, issue the Alhambra Decree, which announces the expulsion of all Jews from Spain. The decree will not be formally rescinded until December 16, 1968, more than 476 years later.

Praying for Our Congregation

We are praying for every member of our church family.  
Each week we invite you to pray for particular members.  
This week we are praying for:

Susan Richardson

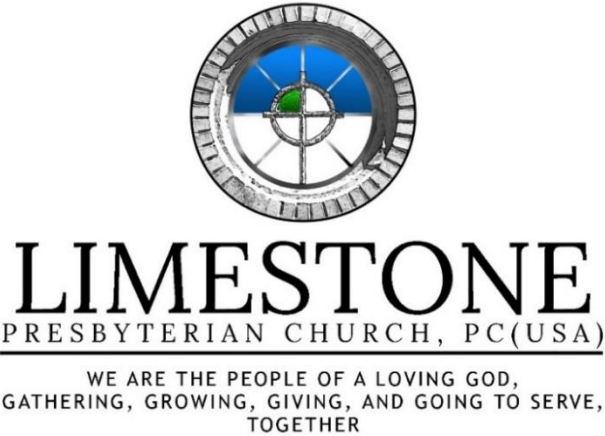
CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday**  
9:45 AM Lectionary Bites – Parlor  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
**Wednesday, March 27**  
No Wednesday program  
**Thursday, March 28**  
Church Office Closed  
6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service – Chapel  
**Friday, March 29**  
12:00 PM Good Friday Service – Chapel  
**Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday**  
9:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt – FLC & Lawn  
9:45 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
10:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

**Upcoming**  
April 3 No Wednesday night program  
April 7 CE Committee Meeting  
April 7 Yoga  
April 9 Joy Circle  
April 9 Serving dinner to the Foster Care Association  
April 10 Outreach Committee Meeting  
April 14 Finance Committee Meeting  
April 21 Session Meeting  
April 27 Soup Kitchen  
May 3-4 Congregational Retreat at Montreat

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Pick up a hard copy of the LIMELight
- ☐ Mark May 18, 2024 on your calendar. We will host Foothills Presbytery that day!
- ☐ Pick up your directory in the Narthex.
- ☐ Make your final payment for the Congregational Retreat by April 1.



For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. (Photo credit: Ron Cope)

MEMBERS OF THE SESSION

| Class of 2024 | Class of 2025 | Class of 2026 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Teresa Spires | Nancy McElroy | Robin Morris  |
| Dean Wyatt    | Mimi McCully  | Barbara Cope  |

STAFF

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The Kingdom of God is where our best dreams come from and our truest prayers. We glimpse it at those moments when we find ourselves being better than we are and wiser than we know. We catch sight of it when at some moment of crisis, a strength seems to come to us that is greater than our own strength. The Kingdom of God is where we belong. It is home, and whether we realize it or not, I think we are all of us homesick for it.  
--Frederick Buechner, originally published in *The Clown in the Belfry*.